

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
EXTENSION SERVICE  
Washington 25, D. C.

Narrative for Use With Special Filmstrip  
Entitled "First Regional 4-H Camp for Negro Club Members" x

Introduction

Back in August 1948, the first Regional 4-H Camp was held at Southern University, Baton Rouge, La., for colored 4-H boys and girls.

The purpose of the camp was to provide an opportunity for club members, who had demonstrated achievement and leadership in 4-H Club work, to learn more about the value of the 4-H program by meeting together, hearing addresses by outstanding leaders, discussing current problems, and broadening their interests through enriching sightseeing tours and wholesome recreational activities.

Each State was invited to send to the camp six delegates — three boys and three girls who had achieved outstanding 4-H records. Delegates were sent from 15 States — Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. North Carolina was unable to send delegates because of the polio epidemic.

It would have been a fine thing if all the 300,000 Negro 4-H'ers could have gone to the encampment, but that was impracticable. However, a pictorial record of the camp activities was made for the benefit of those of us who could not attend. We have selected two local club members to present the pictorial record in filmstrip.

- 4-H'er No. 1 (1) This is the Academic Building of Southern University, Baton Rouge, La., where the First Regional 4-H Camp for rural Negro youths was held August 24 to 31, 1948. The camp was attended by 82 4-H'ers from 15 Southern States.
- 4-H'er No. 2 Let's take an imaginary trip to the encampment and see what went on. Better get a railroad ticket, or do a very good job of oiling and greasing the old car, because for the Maryland 4-H'ers it's a 2,500-mile trip. (2) Even this Arkansas delegation had to drive more than 400 miles to get here.
- 4-H'er No. 1 The first thing we do after arriving is to register (3), get our meal tickets, and be assigned rooms in the dormitories, where we (4) unpack our bags and prepare for one of the most interesting and inspiring events any boy or girl could hope for. These three young ladies are from Maryland, Missouri, and Oklahoma.
- 4-H'er No. 2 (5) And these three boys are from Virginia, Alabama, and Texas. You know, meeting new friends is going to be a big part of this camp.

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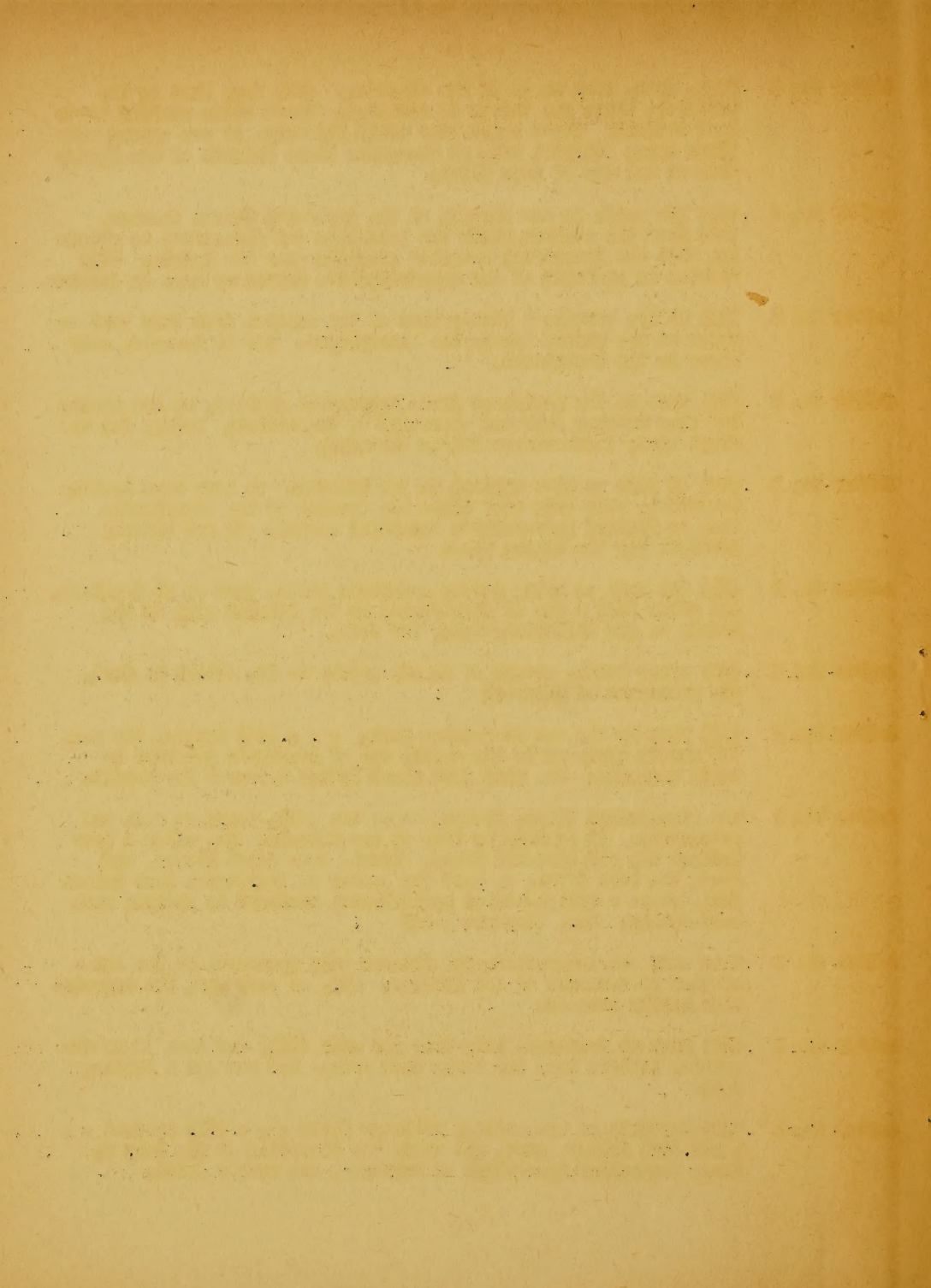


- 4-H'er No. 1 After unpacking our bags and getting into our uniforms, we take a stroll about this beautiful campus. (6) This is the library, one of Southern's newest buildings. Incidentally, Southern is the eighth largest Negro college in the United States.
- 4-H'er No. 2 (7) The camp is really about to get under way. This is our first flag-raising ceremony. Officers and enlisted men in charge of the new R.O.T.C. program here at Southern are raising the flag.
- 4-H'er No. 1 (8) Events are moving fast. Director of Extension M. L. Wilson, center, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, has just spoken in the college auditorium. Now he's congratulating 4-H'er Webster Brooks, Jr., of Louisiana, who presided at the opening session of the camp. The gentleman at right is Dr. F. G. Clark, president of Southern University.
- 4-H'er No. 2 (9) Another encampment speaker was Dr. Marshall Shepard, recorder of deeds of the District of Columbia. A group of us are gathered around him asking questions. In his address, Dr. Shepard urged us to be better citizens and to help our country to live up to its ideal of democracy. This ideal, he said, is expressed in the Declaration of Independence, in our Constitution, our Bill of Rights, and in the Emancipation Proclamation.
- 4-H'er No. 1 (10) Miss Patsy Graves, a home economist of the Farmers Home Administration, is giving a group of us girls some additional pointers on balanced diets. She spoke in the auditorium this morning, giving us a lot of good tips on meal planning. . . . And our meal ticket is giving us a lot of practical experience in good eating.
- 4-H'er No. 2 (11) These group discussions that follow each address are very helpful to us. They give us a chance to digest what we have heard and decide how best we can apply it in our own communities and in our own homes.
- 4-H'er No. 1 One lesson I hope more of us will apply is that of fire prevention. (12) Mr. David W. Kellum, whom all of us know as Bud Billiken, of the Chicago Defender, told us how he had organized fire patrols to help prevent fires in both urban and rural communities. In recognition of his fire-prevention work and of his inspiration as Bud Billiken, we are presenting him a 4-H plaque. 4-H'ers from Texas and Tennessee are making the presentation.
- 4-H'er No. 2 Balancing serious discussions with sightseeing and recreation (13), we board a bus and head for Baton Rouge, the capital of Louisiana. It's just about 5 miles from Southern's campus to the Capitol building.
- 4-H'er No. 1 (14) On the steps of the Capitol, we are lining up for a picture. Mr. Hunton, the cameraman, says he wants to shoot us.
- 4-H'er No. 2 This Capitol is said to be the tallest building in the South. It rises 34 stories, 450 feet. (15) Atop the Capitol, it's a thrill to look down on the city and the Mississippi River.





- 4-H'er No. 1 Down, down, down we go in the elevator. (16) Yes, this is the basement, where the museum is situated. Don't these stuffed birds look natural? You'd think they would fly away, if you opened this glass case. They'll help us recognize these friends of the farmer when we see any of them alive.
- 4-H'er No. 2 (17) The guide is now showing us the Capitol's Senate Chamber. It's from the rostrum where the Louisiana 4-H delegation is standing that the Lieutenant Governor presides over the Senate. This chamber is symbolic of our representative democracy here in America.
- 4-H'er No. 1 (18) We are getting a better view of the Capitol from this boat on which we are riding across the Mississippi. See it towering over there in the background.
- 4-H'er No. 2 (19) Here at the Louisiana State Experiment Station, we are seeing how they develop improved varieties of vegetables. Today, for the first time, I saw sweetpotatoes blooming.
- 4-H'er No. 1 (20) At last we have arrived in New Orleans. We have been looking forward to this trip ever since the opening of the encampment. This is Dillard University's beautiful campus. We are heading straight for the dining room.
- 4-H'er No. 2 (21) The meal is being served cafeteria style, just as at Southern. And after half a day of sightseeing in the largest city in the South, we are definitely ready for chow.
- 4-H'er No. 1 (22) After lunch, groups of us say goodbye to Dr. Albert W. Dent, the president of Dillard!
- 4-H'er No. 2 (23) This is the zoo in Audubon Park. . . . (24) Leaving the zoo, our busses carry us to the docks, one of America's gateways to world commerce. The ship just ahead leaves tomorrow for Brazil.
- 4-H'er No. 1 The Mississippi River, flowing on to the gulf, looks so cool and refreshing. It reminds us that we are thirsty. So, after a tour through the old historic French Market, down Canal Street, and along the lake front, we head for Booker T. Washington High School (25), where a delegation of agricultural students is waiting with cold drinks. Gee, they are good!
- 4-H'er No. 2 This ends our interesting New Orleans trip sponsored by the Association of Commerce of New Orleans. And, we must say, the association really came on.
- 4-H'er No. 1 (26) Back at Southern, it's time for mail call; and some of us are getting letters from the folks back home. Did you get a letter, Jean?
- 4-H'er No. 2 (27) Softball on the college athletic field . . . (28) croquet . . . and (29) indoor games, all under the direction of Dr. Ross C. Owen, recreation specialist of Tuskegee, are really great.





- 4-H'er No. 1 (30) It's "Talent Night" and this is a salad-making demonstration. All of us are having an opportunity to demonstrate our wares.
- 4-H'er No. 2 (31) There's Frank "Sugar Chilo" Robinson, the 9-year-old boogie-woogie pianist. He's the real star of our "Talent Night" program.
- 4-H'er No. 1 (32) In appreciation of "Sugar Chilo's" talent and what it means to boys and girls everywhere, we are presenting him a 4-H plaque. S. C. Blair, Jr., of Clarksville, Tenn., is making the presentation. Mr. T. M. Campbell and Mr. John W. Mitchell, directors of the camp, are looking on. Boys and girls in the colorful green-and-white uniforms are members of Mississippi's 23-piece 4-H band. They came to play for the campers.
- 4-H'er No. 2 (33) No, we are not returning home by plane. These are P-47's which Negro flyers from Lockbourne Air Base have just flown in from Columbus, Ohio, to give an air demonstration especially for us.
- 4-H'er No. 1 (34) This is the citizenship ceremony. We are now saying the 4-H Citizenship Pledge. Hear us?

We, individually and collectively, pledge our efforts from day to day, to fight for the ideals of this Nation.

We will never allow tyranny and injustice to become enthroned in this, our country, through indifference to our duties as citizens.

We will strive for intellectual honesty and exercise it through our power of franchise. We will obey the laws of our land and endeavor increasingly to quicken the sense of public duty among our fellow men.

We will strive for individual perfection and for social betterment. We will devote our talents to the improvement of our homes and our communities in their recreational, social, and spiritual needs.

We will endeavor to transmit this Nation to posterity not merely as we found it, but freer, happier, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

- 4-H'er No. 2 (35) Now we come to our candlelighting ceremony, the closing event of our camp. From an open fire that all helped to build, a single candle was lit and from it every candle in this huge group got its flame. It's symbolic of the spread of knowledge about better farming and homemaking practices. After this encampment, there will be 4-H inspiration candles burning more brightly in 82 communities throughout the rural Southland. They are sure to help light the way to better farming and better living.

